



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel James M. Manni
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director, Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Christopher J. Zarrella
Executive Director
Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training Special Meeting Minutes Via zoom

January 13, 2022

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Mello called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:00 a.m. on **January 13, 2022**.

Chief Mello took a roll call. The following POST members were present at the zoom meeting: Chief Mello, Colonel Hugh Clements, Mr. Shawn Brown. A quorum has been met. Absent are Maria Deaton and Colonel Winquist. Also present were Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, Donna Lavallee, Kate Sabatoni, Adam Sholes, Captain Mark Gilson and Chief Syd Wordell.

2. Review of Lateral Applications:

Chief Mello stated that this request is for the transfer of Officer Emilio Mejia to Pawtucket PD from Coventry PD. He has reviewed the documentation and it is complete and in order. He asked if anyone had any questions for Captain Christopher Dupont who is present. Colonel Clements made a motion to approve this lateral application and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Colonel Winquist has now joined the meeting.

The next application from East Providence PD is for Officer Cesar Alarcom coming from Brown University to East Providence PD. Chief Mello stated he has reviewed this documentation as well and all is complete and in order and he recommends approval. He asked if anyone had any questions of Captain Cadoret or Lieutenant Masaitis who are present. Colonel Winquist made a motion to approve the lateral application and Colonel Clements seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

The next application from East Providence PD is for Officer Kristopher Correia coming from Warren PD to East Providence PD. Chief Mello stated he has reviewed this documentation as well and all is complete and in order and he recommends approval. Colonel Clements made a motion to approve the lateral application and Colonel Winquist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

The next application from Charlestown PD for Trooper Kevin Kajoian coming from RISP to Charlestown PD. Chief Mello stated there was some conversation as to whether this should be a provisional or lateral application. With both RISP and Providence PD both being POST certified, there is no question this is a Lateral application. Chief Paliotta and Lt. Gingeralla are present for any

questions. After a review of the documentation, all is in order and complete and he recommends approval. Colonel Winqvist made a motion to approve this lateral application and Colonel Clements seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

The next application from South Kingstown PD for Officer Alexander Simmons coming from Woonsocket PD to South Kingstown PD. Chief Mello stated he has reviewed this documentation and all is complete and in order and recommends approval. Chief Ewing-Chow is present for any questions. Colonel Clements made a motion to approve this lateral application and Colonel Winqvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

3. Discussion regarding the application process for new psychologists for L.E. testing

Chief Mello stated that there was a discussion at the last POST meeting and some meetings prior regarding opening up the opportunity for additional licensed psychologists to be added to the list for departments. Donna has cleaned up the application, which includes requirements and assessments they need to provide and the parameters. One group from Massachusetts has already contacted Lieutenant Zarrella that they are interested. He asked for comments and there were none. He stated this is pretty straight forward and will be in contact with DPS regarding background investigations. He suggested that Lt. Zarrella contact the interested group in Massachusetts to submit an application and he would be in contact with the group from Rhode Island that he has spoken to as well.

4. 3-year Certification/Re-Certification of Academy Instructors

The following instructors submitted applications for approval:

- Officer Michael Colucci, N. Providence PD-MVC and Patrol Ops Instructor (New Certification)
- Officer Joseph Lavalley, Newport PD-Building Search/Simmunion (Re-Certification)
- Kerri Maher, Elizabeth Buffum Chase Ctr- Domestic Violence (Re-Certification)

Lt. Zarrella recommended approval of all. Colonel Winqvist made a motion to approve all three instructors and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

5. Update on current Class 2022-I

Lieutenant Zarrella stated that the Recruit class began on Monday, January 10th with 62 recruits. The COVID presence continues-5 tested positive before the start of class and 3 tested positive on Day One so they are quarantined. He has been in touch with the CDC and they have indicated that the individual does not have to be symptom free to return; they must be on the mend with no further or worsening symptoms.

Six (6) recruits have resigned voluntarily thus far and we have gotten two alternates and possibly may have an additional two. All else is going well and in full swing. He stated that the vast majority are vaccinated.

He also explained the process for the waiver candidates this class. Aside from the class of 62, we also have five (5) Waiver candidates. For the safety of the recruits and waivers, he has devised a concept that would “front load” their required classes. The hope is to get them completed by the end of February. Normally, waivers would have to wait almost the entire recruit class to complete their required courses; however, this would allow them to meet with the instructors outside of the Academy and fulfill their requirements and get back to their respective departments much earlier. They would still be tested and required to meet all of the standards.

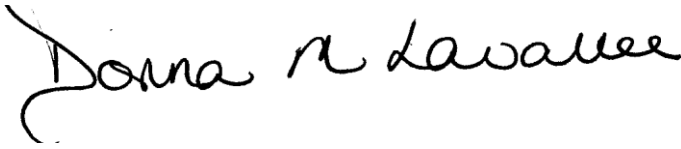
Chief Mello added that at the next meeting there will be a discussion on the requirements of vaccinations for the July Academy Class. Colonel Clements added that for the next Academy, it is worthy of conversation.

Lieutenant Zarrella introduced Captain Mark Gilson, the Director of Training, who recently was promoted and replaced Captain Borek. Captain Borek stated he looks forward to working with everyone and added that the RISP Academy starting in March is requiring vaccination and it was part of their "Conditional Offer of Employment".

6. Adjournment

Colonel Clements made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 am; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'L'.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant